
A New Combination in *Merremia* (Convolvulaceae) for the
Flora of China

George W. Staples

Department of Natural Sciences, B. P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii
96817-0916, U.S.A.

Fang Rhui-cheng

Kunming Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, Heilongtan, Kunming, Yunnan,
People's Republic of China

ABSTRACT. On the basis of pollen morphology and floral characters, *Ipomoea caloxantha* is transferred to *Merremia*.

While revising the Convolvulaceae for the *Flora of China*, the name *Ipomoea caloxantha* Diels came to our attention. Fang & Huang (1979) listed *I. caloxantha* at the end of their treatment for *Ipomoea* with a Chinese translation of Diels's original description, but did not include it in their key to species of the genus nor give it any further discussion.

Based on Diels's description of the corolla as "intense lutea" and "flowers bright yellow," one of us (GWS) suspected this to be a *Merremia*, in which genus yellow corollas are fairly common, whereas very few *Ipomoea* species have them. The holotype of *I. caloxantha* was examined, and the suspicion proved correct. A quick check of the pollen grains under the dissecting microscope showed them to be nonspinulose, more or less spherical, and apparently 12-rugate. This conforms to Type 3 pollen described for *Merremia* in the terminology of Ferguson et al. (1977). A new combination is therefore necessary.

Merremia caloxantha (Diels) Staples & R. C. Fang, comb. nov. Basionym: *Ipomoea caloxantha* Diels, Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 5: 203. 1912. TYPE: China. Yunnan (western): valley of the Mekong, at the crossing of the Teng-Yueh-Talifu road, lat. 25°18'N, 4200 ft., Sep. 1903, G. Forrest 1111 (holotype, E).

An amplified description of *Merremia caloxantha* will be published in the *Flora of China*. We maintain this species until further study can be devoted to *Merremia* in Asia, where the species are inadequately known, at best, and it is quite possible that other species remain to be described, or may have already been described under *Ipomoea*.

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Literature Cited

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